CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for authorizing the operation of equipment comprising:

a motion sensor for sensing a movement of said equipment;

a processor connected to an output of said motion sensor for analyzing a movement of said equipment;

an energy source connected to said motion sensor and said processor, and

an operation enablement subsystem connected to said processor for enabling operation of said equipment in response to a signal from said processor.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein said motion sensing device comprises an accelerometer.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein said motion sensing device comprises a plurality of accelerometers.

4. The system of claim 2 wherein said accelerometer comprises a 3-axis accelerometer.

5. The system of claim 2 wherein said accelerometer comprises a 2-axis accelerometer.

6. The system of claim 2 wherein said accelerometer comprises a 1-axis accelerometer.

7. The system of claim 1 further comprising a dead-man switch for enabling and disabling operation of said system.

8. A system according to claim 7 wherein said dead-man switch comprises a pressure activated electrical switch.

9. A system according to claim 7 wherein said dead-man switch comprises a conductive sensor.

10. A system according to claim 1 wherein said equipment comprises a firearm. [[Tim, should not there be a set of claims here adding firearms to claims 2 through 6?]]

11. The system of claim 10 wherein said motion sensing device comprises an accelerometer.

12. The system of claim 10 wherein said motion sensing device comprises a plurality of accelerometers.

13. The system of claim 11 wherein said accelerometer comprises a 3-axis accelerometer.

14. The system of claim 11 wherein said accelerometer comprises a 2-axis accelerometer.

15. The system of claim 11 wherein said accelerometer comprises a 1-axis accelerometer.

16. A system according to claim 10 wherein said motion sensor is mounted on a barrel of said firearm.

17. A system according to claim 10 wherein said motion sensor is located within a handle of said firearm.

18. A system according to claim 10 wherein said processor is located within a handle of said firearm.

19. A system according to claim 10 wherein said operation enablement system comprises an electronic firing system.

20. A system according to claim 9 further comprising a mechanical safety; wherein said energy source provides energy to said processor only when said mechanical safety is disengaged.

21. A system according to claim 9 further comprising a mechanical safety; wherein said energy source provides energy to said motion sensor only when said mechanical safety is disengaged.

22. A system according to claim 1 wherein said energy source comprises a battery.

23. A system for authorizing the operation of equipment comprising:

a motion sensor for sensing a motion said equipment;

a processor connected to an output of said motion sensor, said processor having an energy-conserving state and an active state;

an energy supply subsystem connected to said motion sensor and said processor;

an operation enablement subsystem;

a dead-man switch; and

means for deactivating said system;

wherein, said energy supply subsystem periodically applies energy to said processor when said processor is in said energy-conserving state, and when said energy is applied said processor determines whether an activation sequence is beginning based upon a state of said dead-man switch and an output of said motion sensor.

24. A system according to claim 23 wherein upon a determination that an activation sequence is beginning, said processor establishes full power until said means for deactivating deactivates said system.

25. A system according to claim 1 further comprising an indicator for indicating to the operator that operation of the equipment has been authorized.

26. A system according to claim 25 wherein said indicator comprises a light.

27. A system according to claim 25 wherein said indicator comprises a means for causing a vibration of said equipment.

28. A method for authorizing use of a firearm comprising the steps of:

sensing a movement of said firearm;

comparing said sensed movement with a stored movement;

authorizing use of said firearm based upon said comparison.

29. A method according to claim 28 further comprising the step of providing an indication to a user whether use of said firearm is authorized.